

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

S E C R E T STATE 154275

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (PART OF LINE OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KE, SE, UK

SUBJECT: RENE EXPRESSES CONCERN WITH KENYAN CONTACTS OF
FORMER MINISTER

REF: A. VICTORIA 369; B. NAIROBI 8180; C. STATE
152271; D. LONDON 10850

1. FOR NAIROBI: SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE AND ANY
COMMENTS VICTORIA MAY WISH TO MAKE, WE PROPOSE THAT EMBASSY
APPROACH GOK FONOFF AT SUITABLE LEVEL FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON RECENT EVENTS IN SEYCHELLES AND PROSPECTS OF RENE
GOVERNMENT. DURING CONVERSATION IT SHOULD BE ASCERTAINED

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INTER ALIA WHETHER GOK HAS RECOGNIZED NEW GOS OR HAS PLANS
TO DO SO, AND WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY CONTACT WITH RE-
PRESENTATIVES OF NEW GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE
COULD ALSO MENTION THAT WE UNDERSTAND RENE IS CONCERNED
ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF SOME FORMER MANCHAM GOVERNMENT
MINISTERS AND SUPPORTERS, AND SEEMS TO FEAR COUNTER-COUP
EFFORTS. GOS PROGRAM OF TRAINING AND ARMING MILITIA COULD

BE MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT. IF ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF RENE'S PROSPECTS, EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE COULD STATE THAT ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE POPULATION SEEMED QUITE SATISFIED WITH COALITION GOVERNMENT AND MANY SEYCHELLOIS CLEARLY VERY MUCH TAKEN ABACK BY VIOLENT COUP, WE DOUBT THAT THERE IS STOMACH FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE PARTICULARLY AT LEVEL THAT WOULD BE LIKELY GIVEN UPGRADED ARMAMENT NOW IN COUNTRY. POINT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE THAT RENE APPEARS RELATIVELY PRAGMATIC, AND HAS ACTED AS RESPONSIBLE FORCE IN EARLY POLICY DECISIONS INCLUDING ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO MAINTAIN ALL PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THIS COULD BE CITED AS PRIMARY BASIS FOR OUR EARLY RESUMPTION OF NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW REGIME. YOU COULD ALSO NOTE RENE'S EARLY EXPLICIT GUARANTEES FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE AIR FORCE TRACKING STATION AND HIS SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF P-3 FLIGHTS.

2. FOR VICTORIA: WE HOPE KENYAN RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACH WILL ENABLE US TO INSTRUCT YOU TO TELL RENE:

-- WE HAVE INFORMED KENYANS OF HIS GENERAL CONCERNS RE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER REGIME FIGURES;

-- WE DO NOT BELIEVE KENYAN GOVERNMENT HARBORS HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARDS SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT;

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-- HOWEVER, WE DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE FOR US TO CONVEY WARNING NOTICE WHICH MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED BY KENYANS LEADING TO UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS IN KENYA-SEYCHELLES RELATIONS; AND

-- WE BELIEVE, GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF KENYA AS NEAR NEIGHBOR AND MAJOR GATEWAY FOR SEYCHELLES, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVISABLE FOR GOS, IF IT HAS NOT YET DONE SO, TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH KENYA AT EARLY DATE AS FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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